

Two New West African Ceropegias.

In 1920 Dr J. M. Dalziel, Medical Officer, Lagos, presented the Royal Botanic Garden with tubers of *Ceropegia* which he believed to be those of *C. Dalzielii*, N. E. Br. (Kew Bull. 1913, p. 302). When cultivated it was observed at an early stage by Mr L. Stewart that there was more than one species concerned, although the tubers were much alike. This was confirmed when the plants flowered. Both belong to a small group of African *Ceropegias* which includes *C. campanulata*, G. Don, and *C. Dalzielii*, N. E. Br. But they are quite distinct from these species and from each other. I have had the opportunity of examining the type of *C. Dalzielii* through the kindness of the Director of Kew. Both species are more closely allied to *C. Dalzielii* than to any other of the group. Descriptions of the two are given herewith.

Ceropegia porphyrotricha, W. W. Sm. Sp. nov.

Species affinis *C. Dalzielii*, N. E. Br., a qua foliis ad 1 cm. latis haud glabris, nunc duobus tantum magnis, nunc paribus duobus vel tribus magnis, ceteris multo reductis, corollae tubo basi paululo inflato, apice anguste infundibuliformi, et 1 cm. diametro, extra minute puberulo, lobis intra nigropilosis atque paulo supra basim pilis purpureis bacilliformibus dependentibus valde mobilibus ornatis, inter alia signa divergit.

Herba perennis tuberosa. Tuber pro planta magnum late discoideum. Caulis erectus simplex circ. 30 cm. altus, vix 2 mm. crassus, sat dense pilosulus. Folia mediana duo opposita petiolo circ. 1 mm. longo pilosulo suffulta; lamina circ. 8 cm. longa, ad 1 cm. lata, plus minusve lineari-oblonga, apice acuta atque submucronata, supra densiuscule pilosula, marginibus et subtus ad costam bene pilosula, ceterum sparsim; super atque infer folia mediana oriuntur duo vel tria paria foliorum reductorum 3-4 mm. longorum lineari-lanceolatorum vel subulorum. Flores

pauci erecti terminales vel laterales saepe solitarii. Pedunculi ad 2 cm. longi sparsim pilosuli. Sepala circ. 4 mm. longa subulata pilosula. Corollae tubus rectus 5-7.5 cm. longus, basi leviter inflatus circ. 4 mm. diametro, deinde anguste cylindricus 2 mm. diametro, apice paulo infundibulari-dilatatus 5 mm. diametro vix superans, extra pilis parvis bene conspersus, inferne dilute purpureus supra purpure saturato maculatus; lobi 5-6 cm. longi erecti apice connati e basi latiuscula anguste lineares brunneo-virides intra pilis nigro purpureis bene conspersi, erga basim pilis majoribus bacilliformibus pendulis purpureis decorati. Corona exterior cupularis 10-dentata dentibus circ. 1 mm. longis anguste triangularibus purpureis apice pilis albis longis paucis ornatis; corona interior 5-lobata lobis ligulatis circ. 3 mm. longis purpureis. Gynostemium breve; antherae erectae oblongae; stylus brevissimus truncatus.

West Africa. Cultivated from tubers collected by Dr J. M. Dalziel in 1920 near Tamala, the capital of the Northern Territories of Gold Coast. Lat. 9° - 10° N. In a very dry parched soil over rock—soil rather sandy. Flowered June 1921.

A species well distinguished by one pair of leaves much larger than the others, by the very long corolla tube and lobes, by the small degree of inflation of the base of the tube, and by the peculiar pendent dark purple hairs fringing the base of the lobes on the inner side.

Ceropegia tamalensis, W. W. Sm. Sp. nov.

Species affinis *C. Dalzielii*, N. E. Br., a qua foliis latioribus ad costam marginesque pilosulis, corollae tubo diverso, lobis prae-longis ex toto glabris praeter alia signa recedit.

Herba perennis tuberosa. Tuber pro planta magnum late dis-coideum ei speciei precedentis simillimum. Caulis erectus simplex vel subsimplex circ. 20 cm. altus, vix 2 mm. crassus, plus minusve pilosulus. Folia plerumque supra medio orta 2-3 paria petiolo fere nullo; lamina 5-8 cm. longa, 4-9 mm. lata, plus minusve lineari-oblonga, sensim acuminata, ad costam marginesque pilosula ceterum glabra vel subglabra. Flores pauci erecti terminales vel laterales vulgo solitarii. Pedunculi ad 1 cm. longi pilosuli. Sepala circ. 5 mm. longa subulata sparsim pilosula. Corollae tubus rectus 5 cm. longus, in parte basali 2 cm. longa, 1 cm. lata inflatus, medio cylindricus 3 mm. latus, supra sensim ampliatus ad os 1.5 cm. latum, extra glaberrimus basi viridis purpureo-striatus, supra maculis magnis purpureis decoratus, intus basi glaber saturate purpureus, supra pulchre purpureo-maculatus atque praesertim ad costulas quinque pilis longis atropurpureis conspersus; os tubi in plicas quinque suborbiculares convolutum;

plicarum margines exteriores in mucronem 1 mm. longum excurrentes, interiores in medio flore approximati sed haud conati, lobos corollinos praelongos gerentes; lobi ipsi 8-9 cm. longi lineares apice coaliti penduli ex toto glabri purpurei. Corona exterior cupularis 10-dentata, dentibus circ. 1 mm. longis triangularibus acutis pallido-viridibus glabris; corona interior 5-lobata, lobis ligulatis circ. 4 mm. longis erectis approximatis basi purpureis supra albidis. Gynostemium breve; antherae oblongae; stylus brevissimus truncatus.

West Africa :—Cultivated from tubers collected by Dr J. M. Dalziel in 1920 near Tamala, the capital of the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast. Lat. 9° – 10° N. In a very dry parched soil over rock—soil rather sandy. Flowered June 1921.

This species is well marked in its group by the very long pendent corolla lobes which are quite glabrous and by the plicate arrangement of the mouth of the corolla tube.

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